

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /091 W

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R 030135Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1314

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJ: AMB DENT VISIT TO MAF

REF: TOKYO 8806

DEPT PASS AGRIC FOR HUME

1. SUMMARY: AMB DENT VISITED VICE MIN NAKANO OF MAF ON JULY 1. DISCUSSION MAINLY ON GENERAL NATURE RE MTN AND TRADE RESTRAINTS IN AGRICULTURE. JAPAN SIDE STRESSED NEED FOR RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY WHILE U.S. SIDE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF MARKET ACCESS. FOLLOWING OUTLINE GIVES GIST OF MAJOR POINTS DISCUSSED BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN SEQUENCE DISCUSSED.

2. IN MEETING WITH VICE MIN NAKANO, MINISTRY OF AGRIC AND FORESTRY (MAF) JULY 1, AMB DENT REVIEWED NEED TO SHOW EARLY PROGRESS IN MTN BUT RECOGNIZED THAT AGRICULTURE IS DIFFICULT AREA. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF JAPAN AS MARKET FOR U.S. AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES AND STATED THAT THE U.S. FARM POLICY IS TO PROVIDE OPEN MARKET CONDITION AND TO BE A STABLE/RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF SUCH COMMODITIES. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR ELIMINATION OF RESTRAINTS IN AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING JAPAN.

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3. AMB DENT ASSURED VM NAKANO THAT MIN ABE'S UP-COMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE WELCOME. STATED HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT AS IS SEC BUTZ. HE POINTED OUT THAT SEC BUTZ WOULD NO DOUBT BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING MANY THINGS WITH MIN ABE, INCLUDING SUCH THINGS AS THE FUNGICIDES/CITRUS PROBLEM, THE SO2/DEHYDRATED POTATO PROBLEM, JAPAN'S BEEF AND CANNED PINEAPPLE QUOTAS, AND NEED FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS IN LIBERALIZATION IN GENERAL.

4. VM NAKANO EXPRESSED APOLOGIES THAT MIN ABE COULD NOT MEET WITH AMB DENT AT THIS TIME DUE TO RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DIET. HE SAID MIN ABE IS HOPING TO VISIT U.S. AFTER THE PRODUCER AND CONSUMER RICE PRICES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED. HE TOUCHED ON EACH OF SPECIFICS MENTIONED BY AMB DENT, VIZ. FUNGICIDES/CITRUS, SO2/ POTATOES, BEEF AND PINEAPPLE QUOTAS, STATING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MAF IS NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST MHW APPROVAL OF OPP AND TBZ. SAID MHW WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE SO2 AND FUNGICIDES ISSUES ON A TECHNICAL BASIS. ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DOMESTIC PRODUCERS ARE OPPOSING INCREASED SO2 TOLERANCE IN DEHYDRATED POTATOES BUT SAID MAF HAS NO OFFICIAL POSITION. TOLD OF REINSTATEMENT OF BEEF QUOTA (SEE TOKYO 8794) BUT COULD NOT SAY WHEN CANNED PINEAPPLE QUOTA WOULD BE REINSTATED.

5. VM NAKANO STATED THAT HE FEELS AGRIC TRADE BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN IS VERY BASIS OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, SAID HE WAS BASICALLY IN ACCORD WITH AMB DENT'S THOUGHTS ON LIBERALIZATION BUT STATED JAPAN'S AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT UNIQUE AND REMAINING 22 ITEMS UNDER IQ ARE BASIC COMMODITIES, MAKING LIBERALIZATION VERY DIFFICULT. SAID JAPAN'S MAIN INTEREST IN GATT RE AGRICULTURE IS RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY. ALSO SUGGESTED THAT TO TREAT AGRICULTURAL GOODS SAME AS INDUSTRIAL GOODS IN MTN MIGHT BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE AGRIC IS SO DIFFERENT IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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